

News from the FPPC

California Fair Political Practices Commission
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FPPC Announces Settlement with Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

The Fair Political Practices Commission, the state agency charged with investigating violations of campaign-finance laws, today announced court approval of a settlement agreement in the case *FPPC v. Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians*.

Based on the agreement, the tribe is now legally considered a "person" subject to the provisions of the Political Reform Act and waives its sovereign immunity with respect to the enforcement of any future violations of the Act.

"The outcome of this case shows that everyone who engages in the political process in California must adhere to the requirements of the Political Reform Act," said Chairman Ross Johnson.

The FPPC and Agua Caliente agree that the lawsuit was the result of a "good faith dispute" and the tribe does not admit any intentional violations of the Political Reform Act. As a result, Agua is not subject to any fines or penalties, but agrees to pay the FPPC \$200,000 and the FPPC agrees it will not pursue further litigation pertaining to this matter.

The commission first brought suit against the tribe in 2002 for failure to properly disclose millions of dollars of contributions made to California candidates and committees in 1998.

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